

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 TRSE-00 NIC-01 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01

OPR-02 SY-10 M-03 A-01 RSR-01 /113 W

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O R 301635Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4732

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USCINCSO

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 2855

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINS PINT MILI

SUBJ: CONGRESS DEBATES STATE OF SIEGE, PRESS CENSORSHIP INVOKED

REF: SANTIAGO 2851

1. SUMMARY: CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES HEATEDLY DEBATED PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR STATE OF SIEGE EVENING JUNE 29. BILL SENT TO COMMITTEE WHICH MUST REPORT ON IT THIS WEEKEND. SANTIAGO NEWSPAPERS BEING CENSORED BY MILITARY UNDER AUTHORITY ASSUMED BY GEN. SEPULVEDA. TWO OPPOSITION RADIO STATIONS CLOSED DOWN. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRESIDENT ALLENDE SENT TWO STATE OF SIEGE MESSAGES TO CHAMBER

OF DEPUTIES EVENING JUNE 29. FIRST MESSAGE ASKED FOR PASSAGE LAW ESTABLISHING STATE OF SIEGE FOR SIX MONTHS AND GRANTING WIDE POLICE AND PRESS CENSORSHIP POWERS TO EXECUTIVE. SECOND OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO REPLACE FIRST ASKED FOR SIEGE STATE FOR 90 DAYS AND ELIMINATED REFERENCE PRESS CENSORSHIP. IN HEATED SESSION WHICH BEGAN AT 10:30 P.M. OPPOSITION MAJORITY VOTED TO SEND SECOND BILL TO CHAMBER'S COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION, LEGISLATION AND JUSTICE. COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET THIS MORNING. CHAMBER MUST VOTE ON BILL WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ITS INITIAL PRESENTATION. PN HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL VOTE AGAINST GRANTING PRESIDENT ADDITIONAL POWERS.

3. PRESS CENSORSHIP ALREADY IN EFFECT UNDER POWERS ASSUMED BY EMERGENCY ZONE COMMANDER, GEN. SEPULVEDA IN JUNE 29 EDICT BANNING "PUBLICATION OF NEWS REFERRING TO TODAY'S EVENTS IN THE CAPITAL AND ALL COMMENTARY ABOUT THE SUBJECT BY PRESS, RADIO, TELEX AND TELEVISION." ACTUAL CENSORSHIP LESS STRINGENT THAN EDICT WOULD INDICATE AND ALL PAPERS JAMMED FULL WITH NEWS STORIES AND PHOTOS ABOUT YESTERDAY'S EVENTS. HOWEVER, JUNE 30 MERCURIO APPEARS WITH DELIBERATELY DISPLAYED BLANK SPACES AND MESSAGE INDICATING PAPER HAS BEEN CENSORED.

4. MERCURIO CHAIN EDITOR TOLD APAO THIS MORNING THAT FOUR MILITARY MEN HAD BEEN SENT TO OFFICES LAST EVENING TO CENSOR NEWS ACCOUNTS. OFFICERS REPORTEDLY PLEASANT AND ACCORDING TO EDITOR PRIMARILY ANXIOUS TO AVOID ALL REFERENCES TO "REBEL" AND "LOYAL" TROOPS AS THIS FOSTERS BELIEF THAT DIVISION EXISTS WITHIN ARMED FORCES. READING OF PAPER INDICATES SEVERAL DELETIONS OF NAME OF REGIMENT INVOLVED, SPECIFIC OFFICERS AND OTHER DETAILS. LA TERCERA HAD TWO MILITARY CENSORS WHO CONFINED THEMSELVES TO SUGGESTING CHANGES IN TERMINOLOGY. ACCORDING TO LA TERCERA EDITOR CENSORS SENT TO ALL NEWSPAPERS.

5. MILITARY OFFICERS ORDERED CLOSING EVENING JUNE 29 OF OPPOSITION RADIO STATIONS MINERIA AND COOPERATIVA FOR ALLEGEDLY NOT ADHERING TO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT (OIR) RADIO NETWORK. STATIONS COUNTER THAT THEY HAD BROADCAST ALL OFFICIAL NOTICES EXCEPT THOSE OF A CLEARLY POLITICAL NATURE SUCH AS CUT CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN LAST NIGHT'S SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE MONEDA (REFTEL).

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6. THIS MORNING FAR RIGHTIST TRIBUNA WHICH HAD BEEN STONED BY UP MOB YESTERDAY CLAIMS DOWNTOWN ATTACK UP "AUTO-GOLPE" AND "SHOW" DESIGNED TO SOLIDIFY GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. TRIBUNA POINTS TO LOW NUMBER OF MILITARY CASUALTIES AS PROOF OF CLAIM. CASUALTY TOLL NOW STANDS AT 7 DEAD, 2 MILITARY AND 5 CIVILIAN, AND ABOUT 30 WOUNDED. SOME PRESS REPORT ACCOUNTS THAT MOST DEATHS CAUSED BY CIVILIAN SHARPSHOOTERS FIRING FROM BUILDINGS SURROUNDING MONEDA.

7. COMMUNIST-OWNED EL SIGLO REPORTS JUNE 30 THAT PATRIA AND
LIBERTAD CHIEF PABLO RODRIGUEZ HAS TAKEN REFUGE IN ECUADORIAN
EMBASSY. HOWEVER, NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS APPEARS ELSEWHERE, ALTHOUGH
IT APPARENTLY ECHOES CLAIM MADE BY PRESIDENT IN LAST NIGHT'S
SPEECH THAT CIVILIAN PLOTTERS SEEKING ASYLUM.
DAVIS

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